

# Program Notice

FGIS-PN-04-11

4/19/04

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## IN-TRANSIT FUMIGATION OF SHIPHOLDS WITH SEPARATIONS

### 1. PURPOSE

This program notice transmits procedures for the preparation of separations in bulk grain vessel holds to be fumigated upon completion.

### 2. BACKGROUND

Occasionally, more than one lot of grain is loaded into a vessel's hold(s) necessitating a separation(s) to be placed between the lots of different kind, class or grade of grain to prevent commingling of the lots. Typically, separations are composed of 4 feet by 8 feet plywood sheets, burlap, polypropylene-weave or polyethylene, layered singularly or in combination with one or both of the other types. When a rigid plywood layer is not used in building a separation, plywood sheets (splash boards) may be placed on top of the flexible separation to protect it from damage resulting from grain hitting the surface of the separation. Sometimes the type of separation is specified in the contract(s). When fumigation of the hold(s) is required upon completion of loading, each separation within a hold must be permeable to facilitate sufficient gas dispersal to guarantee the efficacy of the treatment. To achieve this permeability, either of the following procedures shall be used.

### 3. PROCEDURES

#### a. Plywood.

- (1) Permeable Drilled/Cut Plywood. After the lot is loaded, a burlap or polypropylene-weave cover is placed over the reasonably level grain in the hold. A layer of plywood sheets covering the entire surface area is then placed on top of the cover. Each plywood sheet must have three rows of one inch (25mm) *minimum* diameter holes spaced lengthwise approximately 19 inches (475mm) apart (see Attachment, Figure 1) or have three rectangular vertical openings of 1.5 inches (38mm) minimum by 24 inches (610mm) spaced lengthwise and indented 12 inches from each end. The middle opening is to be centered approximately 33.75 inches (857mm) from each of the two end slots (see Attachment, Figure 2). Holes/openings are required regardless of the method of fumigation.

- (2) Splash Boards. After the lot is loaded, a burlap or polypropylene-weave cover is placed over the entire surface of the grain in the hold. Multiple 4 feet x 8 feet plywood/particle board sheets may be scattered over the cover to hold it place. The loading spout(s) is then placed over the splash boards. Pouring grain above the boards continues at a reduced rate until the spout stream builds a grain mass of sufficient size to anchor the separation before resumption of loading at a faster rate. The splash boards do not need holes. As the surface area of the hold increases the number of boards may also increase; however, the coverage shall not exceed approximately 50 percent of the surface area to accommodate fumigation, if needed.
- b. Flexible Separations. Burlap, polypropylene-weave, and polyethylene may be used singularly or combined with the other two to form a separation. Since polyethylene is not permeable to the fumigant, it should only be used if neither lot in the hold is to be treated or if only the lot portion above the separation is to be fumigated. However, if the portion below the polyethylene separation needs to be fumigated then the recirculation method is to be used and tubing must be put into place before the grain is loaded.
- c. Communication. To avoid or minimize vessel loading delays, particular attention should be given to communication between all interested parties of all details of a separation installation. This is of prime importance when the vessel is to load the different lots at different elevators. The vessel's agent (or loading elevator if prior arrangement is made) is responsible for notifying official personnel where and when the separation will be ready for inspection prior to commencement of loading the next lot.

#### **4. EFFECTIVE DATE**

This notice is effective upon receipt and shall remain in effect until incorporated into the FGIS Fumigation Handbook.

#### **5. QUESTIONS**

For any questions, please contact the Policies and Procedures Branch at 202/720-0252.

*/s/ David Orr*

David Orr, Director  
Field Management Division

TWO APPROVED PLYWOOD PATTERNS

FIGURE 1

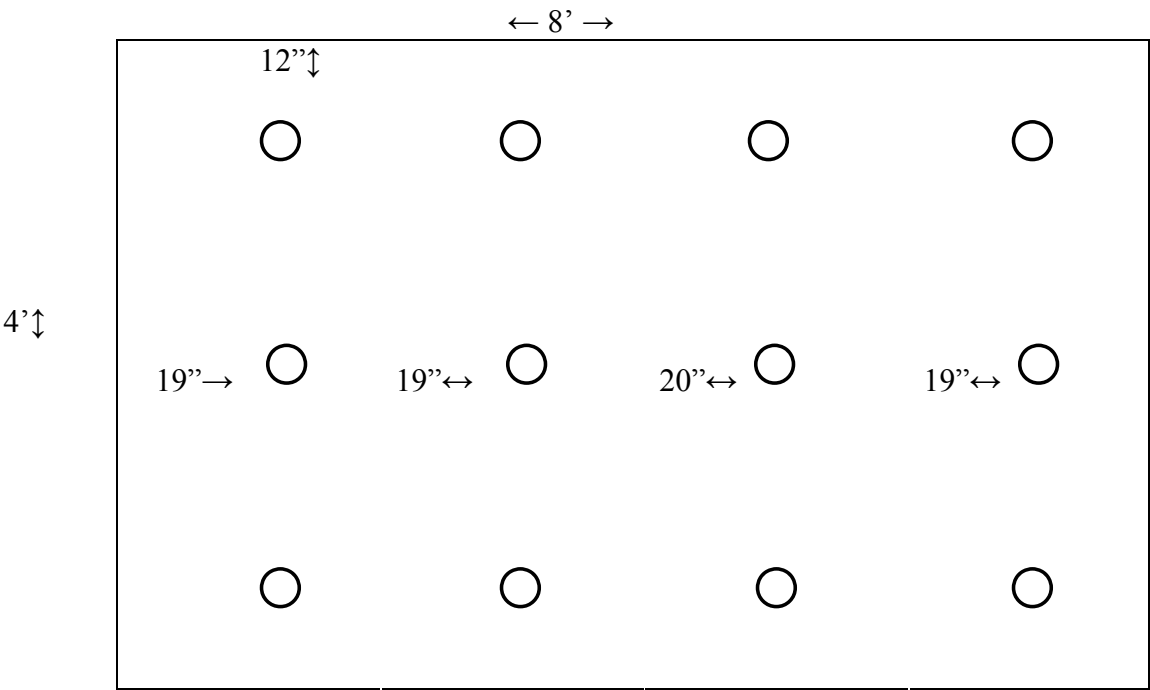


FIGURE 2

